

ECEAP News

State Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program

Volume 3, Issue 2

Washington State Department of Early Learning

Organization within the Department of Early Learning

The Early Learning Department was established July 1, 2006, merging Department of Social and Health Services Child Care Licensing, the State ECEAP Office, and the Head Start State Collaboration Office. Of 184 staff, 57 work at the new DEL State Office in Olympia. Their primary focus is policy and program support for child care licensing, subsidy policy, ECEAP, Head Start-State collaboration, child care provider professional development, licensing regulations, quality improvement, and operational support.



The Department's mission includes providing information and educational support for parents as first teachers, connecting public and private systems that impact children's early years, and promoting quality in early learning and in all of the Department's work.

Effective December 19, 2006, DEL created a new organizational structure to best support its mission and role as a cabinet level department. Find out more details at www.del.wa.gov/About/NewOrganization.htm.

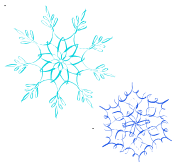
Visit the New Department of Early Learning Website at

www.del.wa.gov

- Read the new Department of Early Learning and the Washington Learns reports.
- Learn about new research on brain development.
- Stay abreast with up-to-date news about early learning in Washington State.
- Find parent and family resources.
- Access the new ECEAP Performance Standards, forms, and income guidelines quickly.
- Meet Department of Early Learning staff.

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"Just because everything is different doesn't mean that everything has changed."

- Irene Peter

Fall DECA trainings

There was an excellent turn out this year for trainings on the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA). The State ECEAP Office sponsored trainings in Everett, Olympia, and the Tri-Cities during October, November, and December.



67 staff participated in the 2-day DECA Basic Implementation Training:

- 23 earned college credit, 17 earned OSPI clock hours for their teaching certificate, and 17 earned STARS hours.
- 30 attended in Pasco, 23 in Everett, and 14 in Olympia.

102 staff participated in the 4-hour DECA Classroom Strategies Training:

- 12 earned STARS hours, and two earned OSPI clock hours.
- 36 attended in Richland (all the Washington State Migrant Council), seven in Pasco, 20 in Everett, and 39 in Olympia.

"The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think - rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with thoughts of other men."

- Bill Beattie

State ECEAP Parent Advisory Group

Parents and caregivers met for their first face-to-face ECEAP Parent Advisory Group in June.

Members represented local programs across Washington and included mothers, fathers, single parents, grandparents, and foster parents.

Parent and caregiver input helps ECEAP provide the best possible services for children and families at all levels: local, regional, and statewide. Members teleconference about every six weeks and will meet twice a year to help set the direction of early learning and family support programs in Washington. Over the last few months, they have taken part in Early Learning Council activities, Department of Early Learning hiring committees, and have shared their ideas about what works best in their communities to meet the needs of families.

Collaborative Leadership Institute

WAEYC encourages members to apply to participate in the 2007 Collaborative Leadership Institute for new and emerging leaders in the early learning or afterschool fields.

The Institute is a 9-month experience combining onsite discussions, distance learning opportunities, coaching, mentoring and leadership projects.

Applications will be available at the following website: <http://www.wsaheadstarteceap.com> this January. For more information, call (253) 373-9100.



Literacy Portal

"Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope. It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development. . ."

-Kofi Annan

Google, UNESCO, and LitCam have launched a new "Literacy Portal" on the web to help you find books, scholarly articles, and videos about literacy. The site, at <http://www.google.com/literacy/>, connects you to literacy organizations, blogs, and discussion groups around the world.

A Unique Voice...

That of pre-k teacher, Sophia Pappas, was added to the blogosphere last month with the launch of Inside Pre-K, a weblog about the daily learning experiences in Sophia's classroom.

Pre-K Now helped start this blog so that families, other teachers, and policymakers can see what happens in a real, high-quality pre-k classroom. But the true power of a blog is in its ability to give individuals like you a voice through commenting tools. And, for Sophia, reading your comments and answering your questions is a valuable part of her development as a young teacher.

Please check out the Inside Pre-K blog at <http://mspappas.preknow.org/> and share your thoughts with Sophia and others!

An Innovative Way to Plan Space

Our playhouse at the EPIC site in Bridgeport was constructed in the middle of the classroom. Before, there was a large space that needed a creative strategy to guide traffic flow. The resulting playhouse has become very popular with children and grown-ups alike. It is a structure of simplicity, which has drawn more boys to a dramatic play area than I have seen in my nine years of teaching.



Early learning environments allow girls and boys to recreate life experiences, act out roles and situations, and ask and answer questions. Changing our environment was a team effort. Staff added a creative touch to our house in the middle of our classroom. With help we were able to build our learning environment around the low-cost dramatic play area.

*Eddie Allen, Team Teacher
ECEAP Bridgeport EPIC*

"You may wonder how quality pre-kindergarten cuts crime. The answer is simple. Pre-kindergarten helps kids learn to listen, be attentive and play well with others. These are the building blocks that prepare kids to succeed in school and later in life."

**-Mark Donahue President
Chicago Fraternal Order of Police**

Welcome, Martin!

ECEAP Health Consultant for 2006-2007 School Year

Hi, My name is Martin Maimon. I am a Board Certified Pediatrician with a Masters in Public Health and a Certificate in Medical Management. I've been providing primary care since completing residency in 2000 and have also been working closely with various community organizations serving families and their children, including Child Care and Developmental centers. I have a particular interest in developing new ways for organizations to help families learn about health and health care.

I've had some great work experiences, but have probably learned the most from the time I spend with my wife, Judy, and kids; Sophie (seven), A.J. (four), and Maddie (three). Here's a photo of me with one of my girls.

I look forward to meeting everyone.

Martin



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